form a narrow pale or yellowish oval with a black central line; this line often broken into two black dots and sometimes diffused so as to fill the entire spot. Secondaries blackish smoky in both sexes. The t. p. line of primaries is continued as a crenulated blackish line across the wing, and is outwardly bordered by a more or less well-marked diffuse whitish shading. The s. t. line of primaries also is continued across the secondaries as a narrow pale or whitish line preceded by a slightly darker shading. A series of black terminal lunules followed by a pale line at base of fringes. Beneath blackish, powdery, all wings with a discal spot, the outer lines of both wings more prominently reproduced.

Expands, .90–1.00 inch = 22–25 mm.

*Habitat.* — Long Island, New York, July 24, August 11; Chester, N. J., August 28, Jamesburg, N. J., Oak Ridge, N. J., August 7; New Brighton, Penn., July 19–August 2.

Nine males, six females most of them in good condition. The Long Island and Oak Ridge specimens are from Mr. E. Shoemaker; the New Brighton specimens are from Mr. H. D. Merrick, the others are from the college collection.

This species belongs with *factiosalis* in type of maculation; but is much smaller, quite different in color and varies in a different direction. In well marked males the tendency to a white band following the t. p. line across both wings is often conspicuously shown and on the secondaries some females are almost as well marked. This character is also the most obvious distinctive feature when a series is under observation.

## NOTES ON COLEOPTERA.

By W. KNAUS,

McPHERSON, KANSAS.

For the past ten or twelve years, the writer has been on the lookout for *Sicyobius brousii*, described by Dr. Horn in 1884. Season after season the vines of the wild gourd, *Cucumes perennis*, were examined for this Cerambycid, but always without success, until June 6, 1908, when I was at Lindsborg, fourteen miles north of McPherson. On that day, while waiting for a train, I went south along the Smoky Hill River, just beyond the city limits, and on examining a gourd vine was so fortumate as to find a single specimen of this modest little gray and white insect. A careful inspection of all the gourd vines in the vicinity did not disclose any further specimens.

Four days later, while in Ashland, Clark County, I took this species

in numbers on the gourd vines. On the slope of the banks of Bear Creek, the wild gourds had been covered with sand, and the vines came up in bunches that had not yet begun to spread. On these bunches the beetles were numerous, and could be picked off the vines without difficulty. When first discovered, at about six o'clock in the evening, they were sluggish and did not attempt to fly. When disturbed they dropped to the sand, which they resembled closely in color, lay quiet for a short time, and then crawled slowly away. In the hotter parts of the day, their movements were much more rapid. Sometimes when taken hold of on a vine, they clung tightly with their feet and could with difficulty be loosened. On single vines, they would usually drop to the sand if the vine was touched.

I collected some forty specimens the evening I found them, but on returning to the place the next morning to renew the harvest, I found that some vagrant cow had browsed over the spot and had eaten the bunch of vines that I was depending upon for further captures. However, from the remains of the vines and others more scattered nearby, I secured some twenty additional specimens.

My specimens in this catch varied in length from 7 mm. for the males to 9½ mm. for the females; the width being from 2 to 3 mm. The annulation of the antennæ seemed to be more noticeable in the females. Two oblique fascia or patches of white adorn the gray elytra; a less marked one, one third from the base, and a well defined one, two thirds from the base. These also seemed to be the more constant in the females than in the males. A more obscure fascia on the declivity of each elytron, running at a different angle from the other elytral fasciæ, can almost always be observed. The scutellum always shows a patch of white hairs.

The stems of the growing and of the decaying vines of the previous year were examined for the larvæ of the *Sicyobius*, but neither larvæ nor pupæ were found. The stems of the growing vines showed numerous galls or swellings, each of which contained small white larvæ. A month later these larvæ had reached their full growth of an inch or an inch and a quarter in length, were thick and fleshy and of a light yellowish or opalescent color. They always bored their way out of the gall and entered the ground for pupation. Not being equipped on the trip for securing and carrying the pupæ, I did not collect any, and do not know what insect the final transformation disclosed.

While collecting *Sicyobius* at Ashland, I noticed in the decaying

branches of the gourd vines a small dark brown Scolytid. The preceding year's vines and even fruit, proved to be packed full of these small insects, their larvæ and pupæ. I collected a good series of the perfect insect, and Dr. Hopkins, of the Bureau of Entomology at Washington, D. C., pronounced them to be a species of *Xylocleptes*, either *cucurbitæ* Lec. or a new species, probably the latter. It was the first time I had observed the species in the state, and the present season I hope to secure both the larvæ and pupæ of this insect.

## ON THE USE OF COAL TAR CREOSOTE AS A PREVENTATIVE OF CABINET PESTS.

By Wm. Phillips Comstock,

Newark, N. J.

An article by Dr. Geo. W. Bock, entitled "An absolutely sure method of preservation of natural scientific collections against insect enemies" appeared on page 443 of the December, 1907, issue of the Entomological News. This interested me at the time and shortly afterward I made an experiment with the method. Dr. Bock used thimbles, to which he had soldered pins, for affixing the same in cabinet; these he filled with medicated cotton which he soaked with coal tar creosote.

Not having time to prepare the thimbles, I prepared another receptacle for the creosote. I bought a box of no. 0 gelatine capsules —100 cost $.10.* Throwing aside the top I used the larger bottom of the capsule as a receptacle to hold the creosote. My method of preparation was as follows: I first inserted a little tuft of common absorbent cotton into the capsule with my forceps and filled about 50 thus. To support the capsule in the box I used a common pin which I first heated slightly over a lamp and then thrust through the capsule at right angles to its vertical axis and near the top (see Fig. 1). The heated pin fused itself through both sides of the gelatine capsule, fastening firmly. A little practice will teach the experimenter the trick of heating the pin to the proper temperature, so that the work may be done rapidly. I used medium size common pins but a black headed steel pin, I believe, would have proved superior.

The operation of filling the capsules may be done with a medicine dropper and takes little time.

* Empty gelatine capsules are manufactured by Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, Mich.